

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are four (4) replacement drawing sheets that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The replacement drawing sheets incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 3, reference numeral --61-- has been added to indicate an input shaft 61 of a CVT 6; and

In Fig. 6(d), a Japanese character has been deleted;

Fig. 7 has been labeled as "Prior Art;" and

Fig. 8 has been labeled as "Prior Art."

It is respectfully requested that the replacement drawing sheets be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. New claim 10 has been added. Claim 5 has been withdrawn from consideration.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement citing Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication (Kokai) Nos. 2002-118903 and 2002-171601, disclosed in page 1 of the specification, has been submitted concurrently with this Reply.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these publications.

Specification and Claims

Minor changes have been made to the specification and claims to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

The above-noted specification changes are set forth in the attached Substitute Specification. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter.

A Comparison Specification showing the matter being added to and deleted from the original specification is also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Substitute Specification.

Drawings

The Examiner states that Figures 7 and 8 should be designated by a legend such as--Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.

Figs. 7 and 8 have been designated by the legend --Prior Art-- as required by the Examiner.

Further, minor changes have been made to Figs. 3 and 6 to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve and enter these drawing changes.

Claim Objections

Figs. 1-4 and 6-9 have been objected to because of some informalities.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of some informalities.

The rejected claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al. (USP 6,525,217) in view of Yamaguchi et al. (USP 5,823,281). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action, Murakami does not disclose that “a rotation restricting device properly restricts rotation of the rotor of the electric motor or that the control device controls the rotation restriction device.” Accordingly, Murakami does not have “a rotation restricting device, provided between the engine and the and the electric motor, that selectively restricts rotation of a rotor of said electric motor,” as recited in claim 1.

Yamaguchi discloses, in Fig. 1, an engine 11, a planetary gear unit 13 having a carrier CR connected to an output shaft 12 of the engine 11, and a rotor 21 of a generator G connected to a sun gear S of the planetary gear unit 13. Yamaguchi also discloses a brake B (corresponds to the “rotation restricting device” of the claimed invention of the present application) that prevents rotation of the generator G.

In Yamaguchi, however, the brake B is provided at a side opposite to the engine and not “between the engine and the electric motor.” Accordingly, Yamaguchi fails to disclose or suggest the “rotation restricting device” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Murakami and Yamaguchi can be combined, one of ordinary skill would provide the brake B of Yamaguchi between the planetary gear mechanism 18 and the continuously variable transmission 20 (see Fig. 1 of Murakami) and not “between the engine and the electric motor” as required in claim 1.

Claim 2, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Claim 3 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with respect to claim 1.

Claims 4 and 6-9, variously dependent on claim 3, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 3.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Withdrawn from Consideration

Claim 5, dependent on claim 3, has been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claim 5, once claim 3 is found allowable over the prior art of record.

New Claim

New claim 10, dependent on claim 1, is directed to the non-elected species, but is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claim 10 once claim 1 is found allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the

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telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Four (4) Replacement Drawing Sheets - Figs. 3, 6, 7, and 8
Substitute Specification - 28 pages
Comparison Specification - 29 pages